Foreign Minister's China visit

2717. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has recently visited China and discussed major issues there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the border issue between India and China remained unresolved for the past many years; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the long pending issues between both the countries have been resolved in his visit?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Issues discussed during the visit of External Affairs Minister to China included visit of Prime Minister to China, clarification of the Line of Actual Control (LAC), establishment of an annual bilateral dialogue mechanism on counter-terrorism, trade and economic cooperation, tourism, and provision of hydrological data pertaining to the Brahmaputra river during flood season.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) India and China seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question through peaceful consultations. We signed an agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas in 1993 and a second agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas in 1996. These two Agreements provide an institutional framework for the maintenance of peace and tranquility in the border areas. Both sides have agreed to clarify and confirm the LAC. The maps of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Middle Sector have been exchanged.

During the recent visit of External Affairs Minister to China, both sides have agreed to exchange maps of the LAC in the Western

Sector at the next (12th) Expert Group Meeting in Beijing in June 2002. Both sides will also do their best to complete the exchange of maps of the LAC in the Western Sector by the end of 2002, and will then begin the exchange of maps of the LAC in the Eastern Sector early next year.

Burning of Indian flag in Dhaka

2718. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the street protest against religious clashes in India, an Indian flag was burnt in Dhaka;

(b) whether Government have taken up the matter on diplomatic level; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Bangladesh Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Our High Commission in Dhaka has strongly taken this up with the Government of Bangladesh.

Restriction on issuance of labour permit in UAE

2719. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the UAE authorities are proposing to impose restriction to issue labour permit to those foreigners who are not matriculate;

(b) whether Government are also aware that, if it is materialised, many Indian job seekers are likely to loose the employment opportunities in UAE; and

(c) whether Government consider to intervene in the matter and ensure the interests of job seekers from India in UAE?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The phasing out of the non Matriculate immigrants from the